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EXAMINER

MOFIZ, APU M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 03/30/2004

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/975,160

Applicant(s)

YOSHIURA ET AL.

Examiner

Apu M Mofiz

Art Unit

2175

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 6-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 October 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it does not follow the above guidelines. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1,3 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,649 and Bowen hereinafter) in view of Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,001 and Walker hereinafter).

As to claim 1, Bowen teaches an electronic data search system (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54) for presenting an information browsing person (i.e. user) (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) with information having links (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier." ... "Suitable resource locators include URLs, hot links, file paths, and distinguished names, object class names, table names, and primary database key values, among others."*) (col 4, lines 55-63) to electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) satisfying a search condition (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) received from said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8), comprising: a search center (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54), wherein: said search center (col 4, lines 51-54) comprises: a search database (i.e. *"The system uses the index to obtain a resource locator that is associated with the keyword. The resource locator is used to retrieve the item's current data from the structured database, using SQL queries or other structured database retrieval mechanisms."*) (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) in which an address (i.e. an URL) (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) opened to the public by an information disclosing person (i.e. the author of the document) (col 4, lines 33-37) is registered (i.e. indexed) (col 4, lines 33-37), being associated (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier."*) (col 4, lines 55-63) with a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65) of said electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37); a search request (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) receiving means for receiving a search request (col 4, lines 63-65), which includes a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65), from a terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8); a search means for searching for an address (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) that

is registered (col 4, lines 33-37) in said search database (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) being associated (col 4, lines 55-63) with a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65) included in a search request (col 4, lines 63-65) received by said search request (col 4, lines 63-65) receiving means from a terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8), and for presenting the terminal (fig. 1) of said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) with information having a link (col 4, lines 55-63) to the electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) of the detected address (col 4, lines 55-63); and said search means searches for addresses (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) that are registered (col 4, lines 33-37) in said search database (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) being associated (col 4, lines 55-63) with said search condition (col 4, lines 63-65), and said search means (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54) presents information having links (col 4, lines 55-63) to the electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) at the detected addresses (col 4, lines 55-63), to the terminal (fig. 1) of said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8).

Bowen does not teach at least one authorization center and said at least one authorization center comprises an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database; wherein: when a search request, which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, said search means searches for addresses of electronic data registered in the authorization database of said authorization center.

Walker teaches at least one authorization center (i.e. website authorization server 150) (col 7, lines 30-35) and said at least one authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35) comprises an authorization registration means (i.e. included in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) for registering an address (i.e. URL) (col 10, lines 20-37) of electronic data (i.e. the web page or web document) (col 10, lines 20-38) opened to the public by an information disclosing person (i.e. the author of the web page) (col 10, lines 20-38) who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions (i.e. parental or employer approval conditions) (col 7, lines 45-60), in an authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37); wherein: when a search request (i.e. *"The present invention also discloses a unique method of browsing the internet. In an advantageous embodiment of the present invention, there is provided, for use in a distributed data network comprising a plurality of servers capable of storing web page data in a plurality of web sites on the plurality of servers, a method of browsing web page data. The claimed method comprises the steps of 1) in a supervisory mode, selecting authorized web sites to be included in a database; 2) storing addresses of the selected authorized web sites in the database; and 3) in a user mode, accessing web page data only from the authorized web sites in the database."* ... *"Computer system 100 operates in one of two operating modes under control of browser application 315: parent (or supervisor) mode or child (or employee) mode. In parent mode, browser application function like a standard browser in that any web sites may be accessed by browser application 315 without restriction. The parent (supervisor) selects acceptable web sites and adds them to the authorized web sites that the child (employee) may visit. Later during child mode, browser application 315 permits the child (employee) to access only those web sites that appear in the database of authorized web sites."* The preceding text indicates that in the supervisor mode, the user is allowed to do any standard browser function (i.e. including going to Bowen's search engine web site and search for documents using a search request/query). In this case the authorized web sites include all web sites. In the child/employee mode user can browse/search but the URLs will be compared against an authorized list before it can be displayed to the user.) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), which is received by said search request receiving means (i.e. the browser application) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) from a

terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (i.e. the supervisor or employee) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), includes a condition (i.e. user Ids and user passwords) (col 8, lines 60-61; col 9, lines 60-67) that authorization by a certain authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35) is given, then, said search means (i.e. the browser application) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) searches for addresses (i.e. URLs) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) of electronic data (col 10, lines 20-38) registered (i.e. included in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) in the authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) of said authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Bowen with the teachings of Walker to include at least one authorization center and said at least one authorization center comprises an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database; wherein: when a search request, which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, said search means searches for addresses of electronic data registered in the authorization database of said authorization center with the motivation to prevent a child from accessing any web site that the parent has not approved and to provide an improved browser system that places the parental or supervisory controls directly in the desktop home personal computer (Walker, col 2, lines 55-65).

As to claim 3, Bowen teaches said search request (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) receiving means (i.e. the search engine interface) (col 4, lines 63-65) displays a search screen (i.e. the search engine interface) (col 4, lines 63-65) on a display device (fig.1) provided to a terminal (fig.1) of an information browsing person (i.e. user) (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) who has accessed said search center (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54), with said search screen (col 4, lines 63-65) being for receiving designation of a search condition (i.e. keywords; keywords are used to form queries to retrieve documents or associated URLs from the databases) (col 4, lines 55-65) for electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) and said search request (col 4, lines 63-65) receiving means (col 4, lines 63-65) receives a search request (col 4, lines 63-65) from the information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) through said search screen (col 4, lines 63-65).

Bowen does not teach designation of necessity of authorization by each of said at least one authorization center;

Walker teaches designation of necessity of authorization (i.e. user Ids and user passwords) (col 8, lines 60-61; col 9, lines 60-67) by each of said at least one authorization center (i.e. website authorization server 150) (col 7, lines 30-35);

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Bowen with the teachings of Walker to include designation of necessity of authorization by each of said at least one authorization center with the motivation to prevent a child from accessing any web site that the parent has not approved and to provide an improved browser system that

places the parental or supervisory controls directly in the desktop home personal computer (Walker, col 2, lines 55-65).

As to claim 6, Bowen teaches that said electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) is Web data (i.e. the documents are available from the web) (col 4, lines 33-37); and said address is a URL (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier." ... "Suitable resource locators include URLs, hot links, file paths, and distinguished names, object class names, table names, and primary database key values, among others."*) (col 4, lines 55-63).

As to claim 7, Bowen teaches a search apparatus (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54) for presenting an information browsing person (i.e. user) (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) with information having links (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier." ... "Suitable resource locators include URLs, hot links, file paths, and distinguished names, object class names, table names, and primary database key values, among others."*) (col 4, lines 55-63) to electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) satisfying a search condition (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) received from said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8), comprising: a search database (i.e. *"The system uses the index to obtain a resource locator that is associated with the keyword. The resource locator is used to retrieve the item's current data from the structured database, using SQL queries or other structured database retrieval mechanisms."*) (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) in which an address (i.e. an URL) (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) opened to the public by an

information disclosing person (i.e. the author of the document) (col 4, lines 33-37) is registered (i.e. indexed) (col 4, lines 33-37), being associated (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier."*) (col 4, lines 55-63) with a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65) of said electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37); a search request (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) receiving means for receiving a search request (col 4, lines 63-65), which includes a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65), from a terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8); a search means for searching for an address (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) that is registered (col 4, lines 33-37) in said search database (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) being associated (col 4, lines 55-63) with a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65) included in a search request (col 4, lines 63-65) received by said search request (col 4, lines 63-65) receiving means from a terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8), and for presenting the terminal (fig. 1) of said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) with information having a link (col 4, lines 55-63) to the electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) of the detected address (col 4, lines 55-63); and said search means searches for addresses (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) that are registered (col 4, lines 33-37) in said search database (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) being associated (col 4, lines 55-63) with said search condition (col 4, lines 63-65), and said search means (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54) presents information having links (col 4, lines 55-63) to the electronic data (col 4, lines 33-37) at the detected addresses (col 4, lines 55-63), to the terminal (fig. 1) of said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8).

Bowen does not teach an access means for accessing an authorization center that has an authorization database in which an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person satisfying predetermined conditions is registered; wherein: when a search request which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, said search means searches for addresses of electronic data registered in the authorization database of said authorization center.

Walker teaches an access means for accessing an authorization center (i.e. website authorization server 150) (col 7, lines 30-35) that has an authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) in which an address (i.e. URL) (col 10, lines 20-37) of electronic data (i.e. the web page or web document) (col 10, lines 20-38) opened to the public by an information disclosing person (i.e. the author of the web page) (col 10, lines 20-38) satisfying predetermined conditions (i.e. parental or employer approval conditions) (col 7, lines 45-60) is registered (i.e. included in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37); wherein: when a search request (i.e. *"The present invention also discloses a unique method of browsing the internet. In an advantageous embodiment of the present invention, there is provided, for use in a distributed data network comprising a plurality of servers capable of storing web page data in a plurality of web sites on the plurality of servers, a method of browsing web page data. The claimed method comprises the steps of 1) in a supervisory mode, selecting authorized web sites to be included in a database; 2) storing addresses of the selected authorized web sites in the database; and 3) in a user mode, accessing web page data only from the authorized web sites in the database."* ... *"Computer system 100 operates in one of two operating modes under control of browser application 315: parent (or supervisor) mode or child (or employee) mode. In parent mode, browser application function like a standard browser in that any web sites may be accessed by browser application 315 without*

restriction. The parent (supervisor) selects acceptable web sites and adds them to the authorized web sites that the child (employee) may visit. Later during child mode, browser application 315 permits the child (employee) to access only those web sites that appear in the database of authorized web sites." The preceding text indicates that in the supervisor mode, the user is allowed to do any standard browser function (i.e. including going to Bowen's search engine web site and search for documents using a search request/query). In this case the authorized web sites include all web sites. In the child/employee mode user can browse/search but the URLs will be compared against an authorized list before it can be displayed to the user.) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), which is received by said search request receiving means (i.e. the browser application) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) from a terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (i.e. the supervisor or employee) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), includes a condition (i.e. user Ids and user passwords) (col 8, lines 60-61; col 9, lines 60-67) that authorization by a certain authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35) is given, then, said search means (i.e. the browser application) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) searches for addresses (i.e. URLs) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) of electronic data (col 10, lines 20-38) registered (i.e. included in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) in the authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) of said authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Bowen with the teachings of Walker to include an access means for accessing an authorization center that has an authorization database in which an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person satisfying predetermined conditions is registered; wherein: when a search request which is received by said search request receiving means from a terminal of an information browsing person, includes a condition that

authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, said search means searches for addresses of electronic data registered in the authorization database of said authorization center with the motivation to prevent a child from accessing any web site that the parent has not approved and to provide an improved browser system that places the parental or supervisory controls directly in the desktop home personal computer (Walker, col 2, lines 55-65).

As to claim 8, Bowen does not teach a registration apparatus for registering information disclosing persons who satisfy predetermined authorization conditions, comprising: an authorization database, an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, into said authorization database; and an access control means for permitting access to said authorization database by the search apparatus.

Walker teaches a registration apparatus for registering (i.e. including a web site, which contains a web document authored by an information disclosing person (i.e. he/she wants to disclose the web content to the browsing population) in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) information disclosing persons (i.e. the author of the web page) (col 10, lines 20-38) who satisfy predetermined authorization conditions (i.e. parental or employer approval conditions) (col 7, lines 45-60) comprising an authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37); an authorization registration means (i.e. included in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) for registering an address (i.e. URL) (col 10, lines 20-37) of electronic data (i.e. the web page or web document) (col 10, lines 20-38) opened to the public by an

information disclosing person (i.e. the author of the web page) (col 10, lines 20-38) who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions (i.e. parental or employer approval conditions) (col 7, lines 45-60), into said authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37); and an access control means (i.e. *"Computer system 100 operates in one of two operating modes under control of browser application 315: parent (or supervisor) mode or child (or employee) mode. In parent mode, browser application function like a standard browser in that any web sites may be accessed by browser application 315 without restriction. The parent (supervisor) selects acceptable web sites and adds them to the authorized web sites that the child (employee) may visit."*) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), for permitting access (i.e. *"Later during child mode, browser application 315 permits the child (employee) to access only those web sites that appear in the database of authorized web sites."*) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) to said authorization database (col 10, lines 20-37) by the search apparatus (i.e. the browser application) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Bowen with the teachings of Walker to include a registration apparatus for registering information disclosing persons who satisfy predetermined authorization conditions, comprising: an authorization database, an authorization registration means for registering an address of electronic data opened to the public by an information disclosing person who satisfies predetermined authorization conditions, into said authorization database; and an access control means for permitting access to said authorization database by the search apparatus with the motivation to prevent a child from accessing any web site that the parent has not approved and to provide an improved browser system that places the parental or

supervisory controls directly in the desktop home personal computer (Walker, col 2, lines 55-65).

As to claim 9, Bowen teaches a method of searching for electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37), in which an electronic data search apparatus (i.e. the search engine) (col 4, lines 51-54) is used for addresses of electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) that satisfy a search condition (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) received from an information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) and information having links (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier." ... "Suitable resource locators include URLs, hot links, file paths, and distinguished names, object class names, table names, and primary database key values, among others."*) (col 4, lines 55-63) to the electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) at the detected addresses (col 4, lines 55-63) is presented to said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8), comprising: a receiving step (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65), in which a search request (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) including a search condition (col 4, lines 63-65), from a terminal (fig. 1) of an information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8); a search step (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) in which (col 4, lines 51-54) a search database (i.e. *"The system uses the index to obtain a resource locator that is associated with the keyword. The resource locator is used to retrieve the item's current data from the structured database, using SQL queries or other structured database retrieval mechanisms."*) (col 4, lines 64-67; col 5, lines 1-2) which registers (i.e. indexed) (col 4, lines 33-37) addresses (i.e. an URL) (col 4, lines 55-63) of electronic

data (col 4, lines 33-37) opened to the public by an information disclosing person (i.e. the author of the web document) (col 4, lines 33-37) **associating** (i.e. *"The indexing agent produces an index that associates keywords with resource locators, and each resource locators include a textual representation of a data item location identifier."* ... *"Suitable resource locators include URLs, hot links, file paths, and distinguished names, object class names, table names, and primary database key values, among others."*) (col 4, lines 55-63) **said addresses** (col 4, lines 55-63) with respective search conditions (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) of **said electronic data** (col 4, lines 33-37), is searched for electronic data's addresses associated with said search condition (col 4, lines 63-65) included in said search request (i.e. *"Users provide keywords to a search engine interface in a system according to the invention."*) (col 4, lines 63-65) received from the terminal (fig. 1) of the information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8) in said receiving step (col 4, lines 63-65); and information having links (col 4, lines 55-63) to electronic data (i.e. the documents) (col 4, lines 33-37) at the detected addresses (col 4, lines 55-63) is presented to the terminal (fig. 1) of said information browsing person (col 4, lines 63-64; col 6, lines 4-8).

Bowen does not teach that the said search apparatus is connected through a network to an authorization center that registers addresses of electronic data opened to the public by information disclosing persons satisfying predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database; and in said search step, when the search request, which is received from the terminal of the information browsing person in said receiving step, includes a condition that authorization by the authorization center is given, then, electronic data's addresses that are registered in the authorization database of said authorization center are searched for.

Walker teaches the said search apparatus (i.e. the browser application) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) is connected through a network (i.e. *"Network architecture 10 comprises exemplary computer system 100, which may be, for example, a personal computer (PC), Internet service provider (ISP) server 140, web site authorization server 150, and wide area data communications network 160 (generally referred to hereafter as "Internet 160")."*) (col 7, lines 25-35) to an authorization center (i.e. website authorization server 150) (col 7, lines 30-35) that registers (i.e. includes in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) addresses (i.e. URL) (col 10, lines 20-37) of electronic data (i.e. the web page or web document) (col 10, lines 20-38) opened to the public by information disclosing persons (i.e. the author of the web page, who wants to disclose the web document content to the web browsing population) (col 10, lines 20-38) satisfying predetermined authorization conditions (i.e. parental or employer approval conditions) (col 7, lines 45-60), in an authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37); and in said search step (i.e. *"The present invention also discloses a unique method of browsing the internet. In an advantageous embodiment of the present invention, there is provided, for use in a distributed data network comprising a plurality of servers capable of storing web page data in a plurality of web sites on the plurality of servers, a method of browsing web page data. The claimed method comprises the steps of 1) in a supervisory mode, selecting authorized web sites to be included in a database; 2) storing addresses of the selected authorized web sites in the database; and 3) in a user mode, accessing web page data only from the authorized web sites in the database."* ... *"Computer system 100 operates in one of two operating modes under control of browser application 315: parent (or supervisor) mode or child (or employee) mode. In parent mode, browser application function like a standard browser in that any web sites may be accessed by browser application 315 without restriction. The parent (supervisor) selects acceptable web sites and adds them to the authorized web sites that the child (employee) may visit. Later during child mode, browser application 315 permits the child (employee) to access only those web sites that appear in the database of authorized web sites."*). The preceding text indicates that in the supervisor mode, the user is allowed to do any standard browser function (i.e. including going to Bowen's search engine web site and search for documents using a

search request/query). In this case the authorized web sites include all web sites. In the child/employee mode user can browse/search but the URLs will be compared against an authorized list before it can be displayed to the user.) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), when the search request (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), which is received from the terminal (fig. 1) of the information browsing person (i.e. the supervisor or employee) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) in said receiving step (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25), includes a condition (i.e. user Ids and user passwords) (col 8, lines 60-61; col 9, lines 60-67) that authorization by the authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35) is given, then, electronic data's (col 10, lines 20-38) addresses (i.e. URLs) (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25) that are registered (i.e. included in the authorized URL list in the database of authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) in the authorization database (i.e. the database of the authorized web sites) (col 10, lines 20-37) of said authorization center (col 7, lines 30-35) are searched for (col 4, lines 15-30; col 10, lines 10-25).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Bowen with the teachings of Walker to include that the said search apparatus is connected through a network to an authorization center that registers addresses of electronic data opened to the public by information disclosing persons satisfying predetermined authorization conditions, in an authorization database; and in said search step, when the search request, which is received from the terminal of the information browsing person in said receiving step, includes a condition that authorization by the authorization center is given, then, electronic data's addresses that are registered in the authorization database of said authorization center are searched for with the motivation to prevent a child from accessing any web site that the parent has not approved and to provide an improved

browser system that places the parental or supervisory controls directly in the desktop home personal computer (Walker, col 2, lines 55-65).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2,4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claim 2, the prior art of records Bowen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,649 and Bowen hereinafter) and Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,001 and Walker hereinafter) do not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims), the authorization center, which includes a cancelled authorization registration tool for registering an address of electronic data deleted from the authorization database, in a cancelled-authorization database; the search center further includes a cache means that periodically accesses the authorization database of each authorization center, obtains contents of the authorization database of each authorization center, and holds the obtained contents in a storage device provided to the cache; and when a search request received by the search request receiving tool from a terminal of an information browsing person includes not only a search condition but also a condition that authorization by a certain authorization center is given, then, the search tool searches for address of electronic

data that are registered in the search database being associated with the search condition, and, registered in the authorization center's authorization database held in the storage device by the cache, and further, not registered in the cancelled-authorization database of the authorization center; and then, the search tool presents information having links to the electronic data at the detected addresses, to the terminal of the information browsing person.

As to claim 4, Bowen and Walker do not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims), wherein: the authorization center further includes: a mark issuing tool for issuing an authorization mark having a link to the authorization center, to an information disclosing person who opens electronic data of which an address is registered in the authorization database through the authorization registration tool, and for permitting display of the authorization mark on the electronic data; a verification request receiving tool for receiving a verification request that includes an address of electronic data, from a terminal of an information browsing person; and a verification tool for verifying that an address of electronic data, which is included in a verification request received by the verification request receiving tool from a terminal of an information browsing person, is registered in the authorization database, and for presenting a result of verification to the terminal of the information browsing person; and in response to an information browsing person's operation of selecting an authorization mark displayed together with browsed electronic data, a terminal of the information browsing person transmits an authorization request

that includes an address of the electronic data, to an authorization center linked to the authorization mark.

As to claim 5, Bowen and Walker do not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed limitations of (in combination with all other features in the claims), the authorization center further including a mark issuing apparatus for issuing an information disclosing person, who opens electronic data of which an address is registered in the authorization database by the authorization registration system, with an authorization mark embedded with an electronic watermark of signature information for the electronic data or for information relevant to the electronic data, and for permitting display of the authorization mark on the electronic data; and in response to an information browsing person's operation of selecting an authorization mark displayed together with browsed electronic data, a terminal of the information browsing person extracts signature information embedded as electronic watermark information in the authorization mark, and uses the extracted signature information to verify the electronic data.

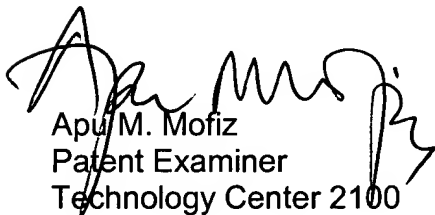
The closest prior arts fail to anticipate or render Applicant's limitations above obvious.

Points of Contact

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Apu M. Mofiz whose telephone number is (703) 605-4240. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached at (703) 305-3830. The fax numbers for the group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.



Apu M. Mofiz
Patent Examiner
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March 17, 2004